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A VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM FOR 1945
AND SUGGESTIONS FOR A POST WAR PROGRAM

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H. W. Hochbaum

We are looking forward to 1945 with the hope that the Victory Garden program will be as successful as it was this year. And with your help in planning next year's program and the continued support of the thousands of individuals and organizations that made possible this year's successful program we believe that Victory Gardens can be as important in 1945 as in 1944.

We shall have enough food for civilian and non-civilian use in 1945 as in 1944. However, our Victory gardeners given favorable growing weather will be more sure that they will have adequate supplies of the kinds of vegetables they like best and when they want them. Home grown vegetables will aid in alleviating transportation and distribution problems which will continue to exist in 1945. Millions of Victory gardeners have learned the joys of stepping out into the garden and selecting for the day's meals several kinds of fresh vegetables of high quality. In fact, the flavor and quality of vegetables right from the garden to the table is often so superior to purchased vegetables that Victory gardeners found new delight in eating vegetables, and therefore ate more of them.

The Department and the Federal and State Extension Services always promoted home gardening before the war and will continue to do so when peace comes again. They are concerned not only with a garden program designed for the wartime emergency but with an enduring one that will continue to play an important role in everyday life.

Here in Washington, we are well along in our plans for the 1945 Victory Garden Program. For example, we are going to have an informational kit for the use of Extension people and for garden leaders to carry out local educational programs.

We are preparing to supply facts, articles and other materials to the national, state and local organizations that are interested in promoting good gardens -- men's, women's, youth, civic, fraternal and other organizations.

We are counting on extensive use of the information services of the Department of Agriculture and its agencies, including the use of the suitable periodicals published by the Department.

The Department will have available substantial quantities of Victory Garden publications to supplement those of the state colleges and others.

We will assist with Victory Garden radio programs for all available outlets. For example, the government sponsored program, "Hasten the Day," will feature Victory Gardens during the week of February 25 with transcriptions going to some 600 radio stations throughout the country. Additional transcriptions will be included in the series which is currently supplied to Extension Editors.

Two new Victory Garden motion pictures are being made by the Department for showing in the spring.

Advertising support will be enlisted through a new fact-and-idea service which will be made available to advertisers, advertising agencies and advertising media.

We plan to carry on an extensive program in the schools in cooperation with the Office of Education.

Here in the Department we are planning as a climax to next year's garden season a big harvest show in the patio of the Administration Building.

Time does not permit me to mention all of the preparations that are under way, but the examples I have cited will indicate to you that we are planning to use all facilities available to us that will contribute to the success of the Victory Garden Program for 1945.

Our studies show too well that many of our people live on wholly inadequate diets. The warnings of nutrition science that the poor physical condition of many, many people as a result of improper food habits must receive more attention. We know this condition exists with people who could well afford to buy fruits and vegetables needed to supply some of the required minerals and vitamins. But there are vast numbers who cannot afford the quantities of vegetables and fruits they should have. This may be all the more evident in wartime. A good size vegetable garden in the home yard, vacant lot or community garden, and of course on every farm, will make all the difference in the world in the family's food supply and its food habits. Even a small garden will yield \$25 to \$50 worth of fresh vegetables. In fact, this item of money saving is considered so important that 55% of the Victory gardeners interviewed in a recent survey said that this was the chief motive that impelled them to have a Victory garden. Furthermore, gardening for our city and town people is good fun and a most wholesome form of recreation.

So, all in all, we can hardly emphasize too much that home vegetable gardening where fertile, sunny ground is available should be carried on in normal times as well as in war, supplemented wherever possible by home fruit plantings. This year we have about 6 million farm gardens and something over 12 million non-farm gardens. Next year we should be able to do at least as well. And even these figures would not include all of the families that ought to have gardens.

Post war or long time garden programs should include plans for developing a wider appreciation of the need for making our surroundings more healthful, attractive, cheerful and beautiful. Such a program would involve far more than merely encouraging the planting of flowers. We need to create a deep desire for beautiful home grounds, for less congested housing areas, for more sunshine and greenery, for less grimy, cheerless, sordid city areas. We need to build a love for gardening and horticulture in the fibre of our people so that our home grounds will be made more beautiful and livable, our communities improved, our beautiful countryside preserved, parks, playgrounds and better housing developments provided for many of our city people now living in undesirable and unhealthy situations. Perhaps as never before, the conditions are right for this. First of all, millions of persons because of their Victory garden experience have come to be enthusiastic about gardening and things horticultural. Secondly, because of the war, it has not been possible to keep up and expand home and civic improvements.

Based on the considerations given above, a Victory garden program for 1945 and thereafter, may include the following principal recommendations:

I. CITY VICTORY GARDENS

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All urban, suburban and rural town families having open, sunny fertile garden space in the home lot, or who have convenient access to good vacant lot or community gardens should have a Victory garden in 1945. Then they will be the more sure to have much larger supplies of needed health protecting and delectable foods every day at least during the growing season. The preparation of the daily meals will be the easier, money will be saved, and healthful recreation result. Victory gardeners during the past three years have contributed much to their own food supply and to the nation's. There is no reason why they may not continue.

II. FARM VICTORY GARDENS

Every farm with sufficient water supply should grow summer and fall gardens that will provide the family with a year around full supply of a variety of vegetables. While much progress has been made in this direction, we still have a long way to go in reaching the desired goal. This may be true especially on many small and low income farms, and where too often families suffer from nutritional deficiencies and diseases because of the lack of protective foods and poor food habits.

III. LONG SEASON GARDENS NEEDED

The recommendations of our nutrition scientists stress the need for seven basic food groups in a rational healthful diet. Three of these groups are comprised of vegetables and fruits, selected because they provide favorable amounts of certain so essential vitamins and minerals. Victory garden leaders, and all instructions for planning gardens, including those on seed packets and catalogues, may well continue to drive on the need for planning long season gardens. Such gardens ought to provide a maximum of the green and leafy vegetables, yellow vegetables and tomatoes in fresh, stored or preserved form.

IV. MORE HOME FRUIT GROWING

In addition to growing adequate vegetable supplies for home use, farms, rural town homes and some suburban homes, could produce, for home use, fruits which can be grown under local climatic and soil conditions. Strawberries, bush fruits and grapes can be grown fairly easily in many, many areas. Cherries, plums and perhaps other stone fruits, likewise, are adapted to many areas. Apple and pears, because of insects and disease are more difficult to produce successfully, but given attention will yield much fruit good for home use. Dwarf forms of these fruits, particularly, may be considered for small home plantations because they may be more easily sprayed and cared for than ordinary stocks. The delights of home grown fruits were long appreciated in earlier days of our country. They need to be more appreciated again, especially as we now value their healthfulness so much more. On thousands and thousands of our farms, the utter lack of home grown fruit is deplorable to say the least. Too often when such homes do not grow some fruit, but little is purchased, and families are deprived of zestful and healthful food.

V. EMPLOYEE GARDENS

Every encouragement should be given manufacturing plants, public utility and industrial concerns to promote and provide vegetable gardens for their employees. Better health will result because of the better food and outdoor recreation obtained, and improved personnel relations result. When research indicated that $32\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the employees of a large manufacturing plant showed less than a safe amount of Vitamin C in the blood, employers may well take notice. The provisions many large concerns have made for maintaining employee gardens is highly recommended. This work needs to be continued and expanded now, and after peace comes.

VI. MORE SCHOOL GARDENS

The schools have made good progress in providing instruction in gardening, and life size garden space for pupils. However, school official, garden club leaders and other garden agencies could really do much to expand the opportunities for garden instruction. The example set by Cleveland and other cities in which gardening has a firm place in the curriculum might well be followed more generally. Much still has to be done by the schools in this field so important in building life long interests and attitudes.

VII. KEEP VACANT LOT GARDENS GROWING

Community and vacant lot gardens need to be maintained wherever garden conditions are favorable. The leaders of such projects in some areas are making it possible to bring water to such garden plots, improve the plowing and soil fitting, and are fertilizing with manures, sludge, vegetable matter. So many weedy, rubbish strewn, unsightly vacant lot areas have been transformed into sightly and productive areas, that it does not seem we should go back to the old disorder. Moreover, these gardens have become centers of neighborliness and community spirit. Without them many, many urban people could not have a garden or have as many vegetables for their tables. Persons of low incomes, especially

should have more facilities of this kind made available for them. Garden leaders, real estate owners, park authorities, city recreation departments, the local press and every possible sponsor should join in maintaining and expanding the local community garden development.

VIII. GARDEN LEADERS MUST KEEP ON

Too much can hardly be said in praise of the many local volunteer garden leaders who have helped so wonderfully in making Victory gardens successful. We hope their numbers will be increased, in view of the continuing Victory garden need, and an expanded garden program in the future. They will be needed and their leadership should be strengthened, so that good direction may be given the garden program. They are needed to enroll gardeners, to find and assign ground for those who do not have home garden space, give out information on gardening and encourage the new gardeners, develop garden centers, find needed promotion and sponsorship, organize community shows and other activities, maintain interest, and develop a new interest in the broader garden program.

IX. BEAUTIFY THE HOME GROUNDS

Victory gardeners, rightfully so, are including the growing of some flowers in their home gardens. This broad interest, where space permits, should be encouraged that flowers as well as vegetables grace the family table. Coupled with this should be every encouragement for the beautification of home grounds, lawns, shrubs and trees that the home place be made as attractive as possible, by screening out unsightly vistas and objects, obtaining privacy and providing an outdoor living room for recreation. We are coming more and more to appreciate the outdoors. When the backyard is made to be an attractive adjunct to the house, we can more easily enjoy the sunshine, fresh air and cheering greenery which should be every family's right and pleasure.

X. BEAUTIFY AMERICA

Deeper than this is the need for stimulating a much greater national interest in the problem of civic and countryside improvement and beautification, that everyday living be made more beautiful and enriching. Local and State garden committees can well build on the great current interest and experience in gardening and develop appraisals of local situations and needs, then organize a post-war program of recommendations which public and private groups may accept and gradually carry out. Included in such appraisals and programs may be the need for parks, parkways and playgrounds, (2) The improvement of approaches to towns and cities to make them more sightly, (3) The improvement of housing conditions in industrial and low income areas, (4) Planning projected housing developments to provide maximum outdoor space, lawn, trees, greenery, recreation, (5) Obtaining the cooperation of property owners and real estate sub-dividers to so plan new residence areas that sufficient garden space will be provided for each residence lot and that the planning and layout of the streets and alleys will be such as to make for the most

harmonious and beautiful living surroundings. (6) Improving and beautifying water fronts and adjoining country and woods areas, (7) Landscaping of school grounds, public buildings, churches and improving and better maintaining cemeteries, (8) Removing unsightly roadside stands and advertisements, (9) Encouraging nurserymen to recommend and provide some of the more desirable kinds of plants for foundation planting and the landscaping of home grounds.